



Yemenite dancers employ tambourines considerably. (Picture courtesy of Gert Kaufman).

utzim" (Pioneers), took place. They came from many lands to rebuild a land that became barren and devastated during centuries of abuse and misuse. They labored long under a scorching sun and in malarial swamps. When evening came they relaxed through song and dance. A new Babel existed not only in tongue but also in dance. Each Khalutz danced in the manner of his origin. The Balkan influence was strongest, Roumanian particularly, for Roumanian Jews fled in droves from that rabidly anti-Semitic country. They brought with them the "Hora" which held the supreme reign above all other type of dance. Tho the steps remained unchanged, the tunes were new, either original or set to a Hassidic Nigun (song without words). The words to these new songs described the rebuilding of Palestine; fulfilment of dreams, or, based on prophetic biblical statements. With each succeeding year, more and more the Levantine style of dance let itself be felt in the new Palestinian dance and by the time the Israel state was created the dance assumed a character indigenous to the surrounding lands. Yemenite patterns sans their undulation, were encouraged and became popular, and even the Hora, the dance which took a firm root among the Judeo-Zionists underwent a modification and a semi-Oriental "quietness" and is gradually being replaced by the Arabic Debka.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL FILMS

Many of last year's participants are included in the 30-minute sound motion picture made by the U. S. Army Office of Civilian Affairs for use in the occupied countries like Austria, Japan, Germany, Korea and is now being exhibited in those countries to large audiences. The Cultural Division of our State Department has made translations of the films in 27 different languages for use in countries all over the world. Musical background and proper narration accompanied the film which was tastefully compiled and excellently presented. All individuals who were fortunate to see the few private showings of the reels were pleased no end with the film and the manner of its presentation.

UNDER CANADIAN SKIES

AUSTRIAN GROUP A TREMENDOUS HIT

A troupe of some 30 Austrian students now touring the nation have received an ovational reception in their only appearance in Canada which took place at the Massey Hall in Toronto, on Saturday, Nov. 26th. Toronto's foremost educators and music leader were the patrons. John Madsen, noted Canadian folk dance instructor, was the co-chairman of the organizing committee. Their programs consist of selections of Austria's great musicians (Mozart, Schubert, Haydn, Mahler, Strauss, etc.) as well as folk songs, yodelling and folk dances from various regions of Austria. Vroni Stoeckel, the girl who did the yodelling, was superb. The Schuhplattler, under the direction of Karl Weber, was out of this world. The Folk songs, led by Felix Molzer, a former associate with the Vienna Boys' Choir, thrilled the listeners.

On Sunday morning the group also sang the Mass at Toronto's St. Patrick's Church. A breakfast reception followed in the Parish Hall. Apart the many receptions accorded in their honor, John Madsen and his folk dancers likewise held one which consisted of folk dancing and feasting.

UNITED NATIONS FESTIVAL IN BARRINGTON

The Annual folk festival sponsored by the Barrington (Ill.) High School under the direction of Mr. Trueman Chiles, will be held this year in the new and spacious gym of the recently built Barrington High School on February 25th at 8:00 P. M. Louis Heidke is the general chairman for the evening.

Eight nations plan to participate in the program: Lithuanians (The ATEITIS) under the direction of Vyts F. Beliajus; the Japanese under the direction of the Uyeda sisters; The French under the direction of Vyts F. Beliajus; The Barrington High School Square Dancers under the direction of Mr. Trueman Chiles; Polish dancers from Milwaukee (The Mazur Club) under the direction of Alfred Sokolnicki. Some 32 young people will arrive from Elgin, Illinois under the direction of Mr. Carl Parlaska who will do several traditional Indian dances — the Green Corn dance and their outstanding Eagle dance. The Russian club Metros will present some of their vivacious dances, while Mr. Logan, as in the past years, will once again charm the audience with his well trained voices. Admission — \$1.20, tax included.

UNITED NATIONS FESTIVAL

at the Gym of the New Barrington High School
Dances In Native Costumes Representing

Eight Peoples

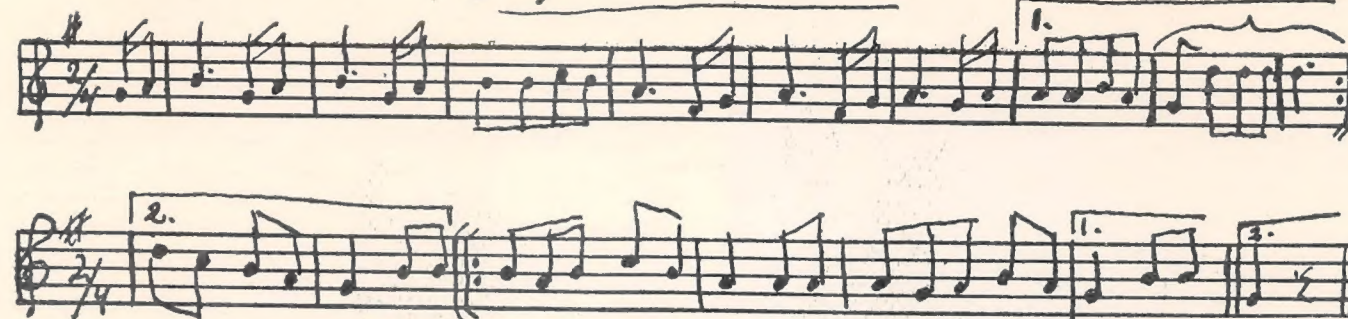
- ★ LITHUANIA ★ FRANCE
- ★ JAPAN ★ AMERICAN INDIANS
- ★ AMERICANS ★ POLISH
- ★ NEGRO ★ RUSSIAN NATIONS

The Only Large Folk Festival Of Ethnic Groups
In The Chicago Area

Contribution — \$1.20, tax included

SOYOTTE LORRAINE

INTERLUDE



SOYOTTE LORRAINE

French Couple Dance

V. F. Beliajus

"Soyotte" is the patois for the French "Scie" meaning: "Saw". This dance is popular through Lorraine and Champagne provinces of France. There are many other dances resembling this one among various European nations.

Position: Face partner with hands criss-crossed in a skating position.

Jump and extend L heel forward and at the same time turn body toward a counter-clockwise direction (saw) — boy's left hand and girl's right hand pulled backward during the jump, but not released. 1 measure.

Jump again, this time extending R heel forward, and saw pulling other hands back and forth during the jumps. Repeat all of the above once again.

During the next two measures execute four jumps as above sawing hands back and forth during the jumps.

Repeat all of the above once again.

Now there is a one-measure interlude during which time the dancers may either stand still, mark time in place, or, the boy will bow while the girl courtsies.

Repeat all of the above minus the interlude.

During the next 8 measures (part B), without releasing hands, all turn to face a counter-clockwise direction and either skip forward or polka. Do a regular West European type of polka (not Lithuanian style).

LITH DANCES "OUT OF THIS WORLD" IN BUFFALO FEST



Members of the famed Ciurlionis folk dance group who recently arrived from DP camps in Germany, performing a figure in Lenciugelis at the Buffalo (N. Y.) folk festival sponsored by the International Institute.

The International Institute of Buffalo presented their annual festival at the Statler Hotel Ballroom. The letters from our Buffalo readers dwelled mainly on the excellence of the Lithuanian group, all D. P.'s of the famed Ciurlionis group under the direction of Mr. Mikulskis. We reprint excerpts of Miss Katherine Havliand's letter.

"Dear Vyts — The ball is over and how I wish you had been with us! You made us love and admire Lithuanians and now the D. P. dance group have left us with

one comment — "Out of this world". Our least slangy friends can find no other word to describe them. Our executive introduced them with the comment that America receives as well as gives in welcoming these new arrivals. Never were truer words said.

The Statler ballroom was filled. Buffalo's oldest and newest residents were there. One person had been here three days and appeared in her beautiful German costume. Descendants of Buffalo's first families were there too in the same gay setting — many in costumes.

One hundred and fifty took part in the 1—1/2 program. The Scotch Piper opened the program with a March and thrilling tune. A piper then accompanied an Eightsaire Reel. The Greek girls wore the Maid of Athens garb while the men in National costumes were a beautiful sight. Two Ukrainian young people (new arrivals) did a fast Kasachok. The Poles were in two appearances, once dressed in Krakowian costumes and later in Highland (goral). 13 couples of the International Dancers put on a Tarantella. As they danced "Eso Si" (Rancherita), Alicia Monico of San Salvador, sang. Then, the dancers sat in a circle while she with her Mexican partner did the very fast Jarabe Tapatio with all the fire of Mexico. The Schuhplattlers were as good as always.

We expected fine work from the Lithuanians, but their grace, perfection yet spontaneous style, was something to leave us gasping.

A Serbian Tambouritza orchestra accompanied the Kolo dancers. Then, the audience was invited to dosome Kolos. At least 150 jumped to the floor and made the tremendous serpentine line with the orchestra in the center.

The grand march had about 300 in costume so that the floor in the center was well filled. At closing we sang "God Bless America" facing our waving flag — proud to be a nation of nations as never before.